Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and twenty-second plenary meeting
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President: Mr. Fedor Rosocha ..... (Slovakia)

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The President: I call to order the 1422nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, Mr. Møller, ladies and gentlemen, as announced last week, we will meet today first in a formal plenary setting, where any delegation that wishes to take the floor is invited to do so, and then in an informal plenary setting to discuss rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament as contained in document CD/8/Rev.9.

At the outset, I would like to inform you about the activities our presidency has engaged in so far. We have continued reaching out to the member States of the Conference and have carried out consultations with several countries on specific issues, including developments in the working group on the way ahead, the state of play in the Conference and a possible programme of work. Together with the Chair of the working group, Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar, we led effective consultations in order to make progress and move the working group into a substantial work mode. I am glad that the Conference found areas of common understanding and that we can start with scheduled meetings of the working group.

I would like to thank again Ambassador Htin Lynn for his tireless efforts for the sake of the Conference and its member States. I will continue supporting him in the current proceedings. At the same time, I intend to continue reaching out actively to the Conference members with the aim of searching for a consensual solution on a programme of work. We are open to any suggestions from any member State of the Conference which could help us to move forward in the right direction. My door is open to all member States.

Let me also inform you that on Friday last week, I met with the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu. I informed her about the current state of play in the Conference, including the agreement on the timetable of the working group on the way ahead.

We will now start with today's order of business. Allow me to turn to the list of speakers for today. One delegation has asked for the floor. Ambassador Kim In-chul of the Republic of Korea, you have the floor.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, in the light of the continued provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including yet another missile launch last Thursday, I felt compelled to take the floor. I will urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — and I will say what has been said here multiple times by many of us — I will urge them not to do one thing and to do one thing.

First, I urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease immediately all provocations. If the Democratic People's Republic of Korea thinks that it has anything to gain from these provocations, that is a complete miscalculation. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has nothing to gain. The consequences are pretty straightforward. It will only deepen their isolation and the economic hardship of their people, not to mention opportunities for development.

Second, I will urge them to move towards the path of denuclearization. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has recently been referring to existing agreements between South and North Korea. I would like to remind them of the most basic one: the agreement on the denuclearization of the Peninsula, which entered into force a quarter of a century ago. This is not only a valid bilateral agreement but a solemn commitment by both South and North Korea to the international community. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea can have no pretext whatsoever for breaking the agreement and their solemn commitment.

I will conclude by saying that there should be no mistake that if the intention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is to test the resolve of the Government of the Republic of Korea, or move us at their will, it is clearly a futile exercise. The Government of the Republic of Korea will cooperate closely with the international community, including the United Nations Security Council, for our collective firm response to any provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? I recognize the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, South Korea should be reminded that whenever it tries to divert international attention to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for strong criticism, it will meet with failure. South Korea is trying to raise ridiculous questions, which only reveals its lack of knowledge about the main cause of tension and our inevitable choice of nuclear deterrence. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been under constant nuclear threat from the United States ever since the world saw the first nuclear weapon. During the Korean War, the United States openly talked about use of the atomic bomb in order to recover from its dilemma. The threatened use of the atomic bomb resulted in a national tragedy of separated families. The United States did not hesitate to express its regret that the defeat in the Korean War was due to failure to use the atomic bomb.

In 1957, the United States made public that it would start arming the United States troops in South Korea with nuclear weapons under its plan to use nuclear weapons in case of a second Korean war. Thereafter, thousands of nuclear weapons were deployed in and around South Korea, accompanied by nuclear war exercises that pose a great military threat to — and blackmail — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In the twenty-first century, the United States designated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as part of an axis of evil and listed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the target of a pre-emptive nuclear strike. It continued to conduct nuclear war exercises with involvement of nuclear strategic assets in and around South Korea. This year alone, the United States has staged joint military exercises, mobilizing a large number of troops and nuclear strategic assets, such as nuclear strategic bombers and aircraft carrier strategic groups, which is enough to wage a war.

Though there have been many changes in the United States administration, its hostile policy and nuclear war plan have evolved more aggressively in nature, and war scenarios aimed at elimination of the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and regime change have been constantly upgraded and put into practice during the war exercises. The United States continues to deploy nuclear strike forces in South Korea and around the Korean Peninsula to drive the situation to the brink of war. Therefore, the access of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to nuclear deterrence is an inevitable result of the nuclear threat and blackmail by the United States.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Deyneko.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, we are closely monitoring developments in the Korean Peninsula and are deeply concerned by the missile tests that have been conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea increasingly frequently in the recent period. We firmly believe that such steps only heighten tension in the region.

Russia supported the adoption on 2 June of Security Council resolution 2356 (2017) introducing new sanctions against a number of legal and physical persons from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, we reaffirm our readiness to work together to find a solution to the nuclear and other problems in the Korean Peninsula.

At the same time, we note with concern the build-up in the United States military presence in north-eastern Asia. As we have said several times in the past, we believe that this does not help to create the conditions for the resumption of dialogue but, rather, increases the potential for conflict in the region.

In our contacts with all partners, we call for restraint and underline the need for general military and political détente and a collective approach to seek ways of solving all the problems that exist through exclusively political and diplomatic means.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Wood.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I am taking the floor to respond to the charges levelled against my country by the representative of the regime in Pyongyang. Let me first make clear that the source of tension on the Korean Peninsula comes from one party, and that is from the regime in Pyongyang. The United States is not a threat to the regime — as I have said many times before, the threat to the regime comes from the regime itself. I just want to reiterate a point that we have made often in this room, and that is that the United States commitment to the defence of the Republic of Korea and Japan remains ironclad, and the goal of the United States, as we have said many times, is the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again but, to respond to the remarks by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I will state again that there should be no mistake: we will not move one single step back or compromise on matters of national security. We will keep up our unwavering efforts to pursue complete denuclearization of North Korea through sanctions and dialogue.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea. I see now a request from Australia. The representative of Australia has the floor.

Ms. Wood (Australia): Mr. President, the numerous ballistic missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2017 are provocative and breach United Nations Security Council resolutions. Australia welcomes Council resolution 2356 (2017) adopted on 2 June. We call on all countries to redouble their efforts to implement unanimously agreed Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to impress upon it that its current path is unsustainable.

The President: I thank the representative of Australia for her statement. I see that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is asking for the floor. Sir, the floor is yours.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor again.

It is quite clear that the United States is engaged in a desperate attempt to instigate an international atmosphere of sanction and pressure upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by terming the latter's just, self-defensive measures as a violation of resolutions or threats. Even this chamber is no exception for the sinister political purpose of the United States, abusing it as a venue for pointing a finger of blame at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Therefore, my delegation categorically rejects those accusations made against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea just now.

The recent withdrawal of the United States from the Paris agreement on climate change demonstrates the height of its egoism and how devoid it is of morality, seeking only its own well-being at the cost of our planet. That selfish act of the United States does not only have grave consequences for the international efforts to protect the environment but it also poses great danger to other areas as well. The attitude of the United States towards the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula is a typical example. The self-defensive measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea seek to firmly protect the nation's sovereignty and right to existence in the face of the nuclear threat posed by the United States. No one is entitled to find fault with this legitimate right of a sovereign State. However, the hostile policy of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has reached such a reckless level today as to pressure other countries to sacrifice their relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the sake of United States security. The days when the United States relied on arbitrary and high-handed practices to unilaterally impose its will on other countries are gone, and the American-style bluffing that selectively bullies only weak countries can never work on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States and its followers should clearly understand that the United States military

threats and campaign of sanctions and pressure will only serve as momentum that pushes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to further develop its nuclear forces and defence capabilities.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for having to take the floor again, but I need to respond to the comments from the representative of the regime in Pyongyang.

This is a regime that over the years has carried out numerous ballistic missile tests; it has undertaken five nuclear weapons tests — the only country to have tested during this century. This is a regime that threatens its neighbours and threatens global peace and stability, and it is under, as I have said before, a number of Security Council resolutions, the latest being on 2 June — a Chapter VII resolution — that puts further sanctions on representatives and entities of the regime.

It should be very clear to the representative of the regime sitting here in this chamber, having to witness over a number of weeks a chorus of condemnation of that country's reckless behaviour, its threats and provocations. So, for it to claim from here that the United States is a source of tension on the Peninsula is just ridiculous. Everyone in this room knows where the source of tension originates on the Peninsula. This is a regime that has violated countless, as I said, resolutions, but also commitments — the 2005 agreement — and the list goes on.

So, all I can say to the representative of that regime sitting here is that your Government is isolated, your country is isolated. Your people deserve better than what they are getting. We will stand firm, as I said earlier, in our commitment to the defence of our allies, Japan and the Republic of Korea. We call on the regime to stop the provocations and threats, come into compliance with its obligations and move forward towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which is something that it committed to doing. Until then, it will continue to be isolated and we will continue from this chamber to call the regime out for its reckless and dangerous behaviour.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for his statement. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? I see that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is asking for the floor. Sir, the floor is yours.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again.

The United States accuses only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its self-defensive measures, while turning a blind eye to other countries' missile tests and satellite launches. The access of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to nuclear weapons has strengthened its defence capabilities and strategic options for defending the destiny and sovereignty of the country in the face of the hideous, hostile policy of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its nuclear threats, which have lasted decade after decade.

I would like to give some examples of the provocations that pose a threat to peace and security in the region. A few months ago, the United States carried out the largest ever military exercises for a pre-emptive attack on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with massive mobilization of nuclear strategic assets. Immediately after these exercises, the United States sent the aircraft carrier *Carl Vinson* strike group to the waters of the Korean Peninsula and continued joint naval military exercises with South Korea. It also conducted nuclear bomb-drop bombing drills in late May with nuclear strategic B-1B bombers flying over South Korean airspace. Aircraft carrier strike groups, such as the *Carl Vinson* and *Ronald Reagan*, are permanently deployed around the Korean Peninsula ready to launch an intensive strike on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while more than 100 United States war planes conduct air strike exercises every day. According to military sources, the United States is planning to dispatch another *Nimitz* aircraft carrier, which was supposed to be deployed in the Middle East, towards the waters of the Korean Peninsula. At the same time, the United States is accelerating modernization of its nuclear strike assets that will

intervene in the Korean Peninsula in the case of a crisis. Aircraft carriers are being transformed to equip the latest F-35C stealth fighters, while the number of launching batteries for cruise missiles installed on nuclear-powered submarines is being increased from 12 to 14. All this clearly shows that the intention of the United States to secure military supremacy in the East Asia/Pacific region and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the force of arms remains unchanged. The United States is the chief source of escalation of tension in the region and nuclear war crisis. The United States says that it has no intention of regime change or invasion and that it seeks solution through dialogue and negotiation. However, this reality only proves that it is a mere deception to conceal their true intention of invasion. The United States and its followers should bear in mind that whatever sanctions or pressure may follow, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not flinch or stand back from the road to strengthen nuclear forces that ensure the sovereignty of the country and the right to national existence.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our business for today. Before switching to an informal plenary meeting this morning, please note that the next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 20 June 2017, at 10 a.m. Please also note that the working group on the way ahead will meet this week, on 14 June at 3 p.m. and on 15 and 16 June at 10 a.m., as per the timetable of the working group. This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.